

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 1, 17-19, and 29 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be located in operations 8-2, 8-4, and 8-8 in FIG. 8. The above-identified claims have been amended to clarify two different types of information, namely, information identifying an asset and node identifying information identifying a connection node.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 17-19, and 21-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,606,744 (Mikurak).

According to the Examiner, the storage means 2812, gathering means 4504, 9300, interactive mediums, and updating means for comparing the storage contents of the storage means (4708, 5602, 7008), and the Intelligent Administrator of Mikurak, "encompass in broad scope and content Applicant's claim language."

Applicants respectfully submit that Mikurak does not teach, ". . . when the management information and the storage contents are not the same, updating the storage contents of the storage means by the gathered management information."

According to Mikurak, no updating of storage contents by gathered management information occurs. The Examiner appears to have overlooked the claim language regarding, "updating the storage contents of the storage means . . ." In other words, the Examiner merely asserts that Mikurak teaches the comparing function of the updating means but does not provide support for the updating function of the comparing means, that is, "updating the storage contents of the storage means by the gathered management information."

For example, the Examiner cites operations 4708 of Figure 47, 5602 of Figure 56, and 7008 of Figure 70, from Mikurak, as teaching the updating means of the present invention. According to Mikurak, operations 4708 and 5602, of Mikurak's Figures 47 and 56, respectively, only relate to comparing. In operation 4708 of Figure 47, a current level of service is compared with a minimum threshold to determine if an alarm should be sounded. See Mikurak, column 73, line 64 – column 74, line 6. In operation 5602 of Figure 56, a customer can select items to compare. See Mikurak, column 99, lines 1-4. Although operation 7008 may relate to updating, Mikurak merely states that site updates and maintenance procedures for localization are enabled. See Mikurak, column 140, lines 36-41. Mikurak is void of a description of, "updating of storage contents by gathered management information."

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Mikurak, as Mikurak fails to teach, "updating of storage contents by gathered management information," as identified by the claim language of the present invention. As independent claims 17-19 and 25 and 29 recite language similar to that of claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also patentable over Mikurak, for at least the reasons presented above for claim 1. As dependent claims 2-4 and 21-24 depend from independent claim 1 and dependent claims 26-28 depend from independent claim 25, the dependent claims are also patentable over Mikurak, for at least the reasons presented above.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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